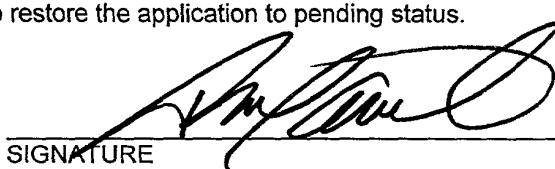


SUBSTITUTE FORM PTO-1390		U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE	ATTORNEY'S DOCKET NUMBER 09910-007001
TRANSMITTAL LETTER TO THE UNITED STATES DESIGNATED/ELECTED OFFICE (DO/EO/US) CONCERNING A FILING UNDER 35 U.S.C. 371		U.S. APPLICATION NO. (IF KNOWN) 09/646204	
INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION NO. PCT/F100/00031	INTERNATIONAL FILING DATE 18 JANUARY 2000	PRIORITY DATE CLAIMED 18 JANUARY 1999	
TITLE OF INVENTION PURIFICATION PROCESS USING MAGNETIC PARTICLES			
APPLICANT(S) FOR DO/EO/US Helena Seppanen, Pekka Palomaki, Jukka Tuunanen and Timo Karmeniem			
Applicant herewith submits to the United States Designated/Elected Office (DO/EO/US) the following items and other information:			
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> This is a FIRST submission of items concerning a filing under 35 U.S.C. 371. <input type="checkbox"/> This is a SECOND or SUBSEQUENT submission of items concerning a filing under 35 U.S.C. 371. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> This is an express request to begin national examination procedures (35 U.S.C. 371(f)) at any time rather than delay examination until the expiration of the applicable time limit set in 35 U.S.C. 371(b) and PCT Articles 22 and 39(1). <input type="checkbox"/> A proper Demand for International Preliminary Examination was made by the 19th month from the earliest claimed priority date. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A copy of the International Application as filed (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(2)) <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> is transmitted herewith (required only if not transmitted by the International Bureau). <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> has been transmitted by the International Bureau. <input type="checkbox"/> is not required, as the application was filed in the United States Receiving Office (RO/US). <input type="checkbox"/> A translation of the International Application (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(2)). <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Amendments to the claims of the International Application under PCT Article 19 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(3)) <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> are transmitted herewith (required only if not transmitted by the International Bureau). <input type="checkbox"/> have been transmitted by the International Bureau. <input type="checkbox"/> have not been made; however, the time limit for making such amendments has NOT expired. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> have not been made and will not be made. <input type="checkbox"/> A translation of amendments to the claims under PCT Article 19 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(3)). <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> An oath or declaration of the inventor(s) (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(4)). (unsigned) <input type="checkbox"/> A translation of the annexes to the International Preliminary Examination Report under PCT Article 36 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(5)). 			
Items 11. to 16. below concern other documents or information included:			
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> An Information Disclosure Statement under 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98. <input type="checkbox"/> An assignment document for recording. A separate cover sheet in compliance with 37 CFR 3.28 and 3.31 is included. <input type="checkbox"/> A FIRST preliminary amendment. <input type="checkbox"/> A SECOND or SUBSEQUENT preliminary amendment. <input type="checkbox"/> A substitute specification. <input type="checkbox"/> A change of power of attorney and/or address letter. <input type="checkbox"/> Other items or information: <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> 			
<p style="text-align: right;"><i>Express Mail mailing label number: PL 22469831848 Date of Deposit: 9-14-00</i></p> <p>I hereby certify under 37 CFR 1.10 that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" with sufficient postage on the date indicated above and is addressed to the Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks, Washington, D.C. 20231.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Samantha Bell</i> <i>Samantha Bell</i></p>			

LOCATION NO. (IF KNOWN) 09/646204		INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION NO. PCT/FI00/00031	ATTORNEY'S DOCKET NUMBER 09910-007001	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The following fees are submitted:		CALCULATIONS		PTO USE ONLY
Basic National Fee (37 CFR 1.492(a)(1)-(5)):				
Search report has been prepared by the EPO or JPO		\$840		\$0.00
International preliminary examination fee paid to USPTO (37 CFR 1.482) ..		\$670		\$0.00
International preliminary examination fee paid to USPTO (37 CFR 1.482) but international search fee paid to USPTO (37 CFR 1.445(a)(2))....		\$690		\$0.00
Either international preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482) nor international search fee (37 CFR 1.445(a)(2)) paid to USPTO		\$970		\$970.00
International preliminary examination fee paid to USPTO (37 CFR 1.482) and all claims satisfied provisions of PCT Article 33(2) to (4)		\$96		\$0.00
ENTER APPROPRIATE BASIC FEE AMOUNT				\$0.00
Surcharge of \$130 for furnishing the oath or declaration later than <input type="checkbox"/> 20 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 30 mos. from the earliest claimed priority date (37 CFR 1.492(e)).				\$0.00
Claims		Number Filed	Number Extra	Rate
Total Claims		20 - 20	0	x \$18
Dependent Claims		3 - 3	0	x \$78
Multiple Dependent Claims(s) (if applicable)				+ \$260
TOTAL OF ABOVE CALCULATIONS				\$1230.00
Reduction by 1/2 for filing by small entity, if applicable. Verified Small Entity Statement must also be filed. (Note 37 CFR 1.9, 1.27, 1.28.)				\$0.00
TOTAL				\$1230.00
Processing fee of \$130 for furnishing the English Translation later than <input type="checkbox"/> 20 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 30 mos. from the earliest claimed priority date (37 CFR 1.492(f))				\$0.00
TOTAL NATIONAL FEE				\$1230.00
Fee for recording the enclosed assignment (37 CFR 1.21(h)). The assignment must be accompanied by an appropriate cover sheet (37 CFR 3.28, 3.31).				\$0.00
TOTAL FEES ENCLOSED				\$1230.00
		Amount to be refunded		
		Charged		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A check in the amount of \$1230.00 to cover the above fees is enclosed. <input type="checkbox"/> Please charge my Deposit Account No. 06-1050 in the amount of \$0.00 to cover the above fees. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 06-1050. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.				
NOTE: Where an appropriate time limit under 37 CFR 1.494 or 1.495 has not been met, a petition to revive (37 CFR 1.137(a) or (b) must be filed and granted to restore the application to pending status.				
SEND ALL CORRESPONDENCE TO:				
 Timothy A. French H & RICHARDSON P.C. 1 Franklin Street Boston, MA 02110-2804 (617) 542-5070 phone (617) 542-8906 facsimile				
SIGNATURE Timothy A. French NAME 30,175 REGISTRATION NUMBER				

EB

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE*

Applicant : Helena Seppanen et al.

Art Unit : Unknown

Serial No. : 09/646,204

Examiner : Unknown

Filed : September 14, 2000

International Application: PCT/FI00/00031

International Filing Date: 18 January 2000

Title : PURIFICATION PROCESS USING MAGNETIC PARTICLES

Commissioner for Patents

Washington, D.C. 20231

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Prior to examination, please amend the application as follows:

In the Claims:

In claim 9, line 1, delete "any of claims 1-8" and substitute --claim 1--.

REMARKS

Claim 9 has been amended for better conformance with the requirements of U.S. practice.

We submit that no new matter has been introduced.

Filed herewith under separate cover is an information disclosure statement.

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING BY EXPRESS MAIL

Express Mail Label No. E1224698627US

I hereby certify under 37 CFR §1.10 that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as Express Mail Post Office to Addressee with sufficient postage on the date indicated below and is addressed to the Commissioner for Trademarks, 2900 Crystal Drive, Arlington, VA 22202-3513.

December 21, 2000

Date of Deposit



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Typed or Printed Name of Person Signing Certificate

Applicant : Helena Seppanen et al.
Serial No. : 09/646,204
Filed : September 14, 2000
International Application: PCT/FI00/00031
International Filing Date: 18 January 2000
Page : 2

Attorney's Docket No.: 09910-
007001 / BP100140/EH/TUK

Applicants submit that this application is condition for examination. Please apply any charges or credits to Deposit Account No. 06-1050.

Respectfully submitted,



Timothy A. French
Reg. No. 30,175

Fish & Richardson P.C.
225 Franklin Street
Boston, MA 02110-2804
Telephone: (617) 542-5070
Facsimile: (617) 542-8906

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Background of the invention

5 The present invention relates to the purification of biological substances using magnetic particles which bind the material specifically from a mixture. The invention can be used for instance for purifying nucleic acids DNA or RNA.

10 Magnetic particles can be coated with a separation reagent which reacts specifically with a desired biological substance. The particles and the bound substance are separated from the mixture and thereafter the substance is released from the particles for further prosecution. Nowadays this is done in practice so that the particles are drawn with a magnet against the wall of the vessel containing the mixture, and the liquid is poured or sucked off the vessel. Thereafter a new liquid 15 can be dispensed into the vessel. Manual or automatic equipments for such separation technology are also commercially available (e.g., Spherotec, Inc., AutoMag Processor (USA), Merck Magnetic Rack (Darmstadt, Germany), PerSeptive Biosystems 96 well plate separator, Multi-6 Separator, Solo-Sep Separator (USA), Dynal Magnetic Particles Concentrators).

20 The old purification technique for DNA involves ultracentrifugation in a dense cesium chloride gradient. However, also magnetic particle technology described above has been used for purifying nucleic acids.

25 WO 94/18565 (Labsystems Oy) suggests a method and device for magnetic particle specific binding assay, in which magnetic particles are separated from a mixture by a probe comprising a rod movable in a vertical bore and provided with a magnet at the lower end thereof. The probe is pushed into the mixture with the rod in the lower position, whereby the particles are collected on the probe. Then the probe is transferred to another vessel and the rod is pulled in its upper position, whereby the particles are released. Thus all steps of the assay can be carried out in a separate vessel without having to transfer liquids. In the last vessel, a measurement is carried out.

30 WO 96/12959 (Labsystems Oy) suggests a magnetic particle transfer tool comprising an elongated body with a concavely tapered tip part. The body further comprises means for providing a longitudinal magnetic field to collect particles to the tip of the body. The magnetic field can be eliminated in order to release the

particles. This tool can be used especially for collecting particles from a large volume and releasing them into a very small volume.

General description of the invention

Now a method according to claim 1 has been invented. Some preferable embodiments of the invention are defined in the other claims.

According to the invention, material to be purified is dispensed in a first medium containing magnetic particles, which have been coated with a binding reagent for the material. The binding reaction takes place, after which the particles are separated by means of a magnetic probe and transferred into a second medium, in which a desired further reaction necessary for the purification may take place. The particles can be transferred similarly via further mediums for carrying out further steps of the purification process. All the vessels may contain the necessary reaction medium ready when the particles are transferred into it. Preferably the particles are also released from the probe in the second and subsequent mediums.

15 According to the invention, at least one of the mediums contains a surface tension releasing agent. This promotes the complete collection of the particles.

Some of such agents have been used also before in this connection to promote the binding of the substance to be separated, see e.g. Wipat et al., Microbiology (1994), 140, 2067. In these known methods, the particles are not transferred from a vessel to another but they are held on the wall of the vessel by means of a external magnet, while the medium is removed from the vessel.

The invention can be used especially for purifying nucleic acids, such as ssDNA, dsDNA, and mRNA.

Brief description of the drawings

25 The enclosed drawings form a part of the written description.

Figure 1 shows the effect of a detergent in collecting and releasing steps of magnetizable particles.

Figure 2 shows the effect of salt and saccharose in collecting and releasing buffer.

Figure 3 shows the effect of protein in collecting and releasing buffer.

30 Figure 4 shows the effect of a detergent when magnetic particles of different suppliers were used.

Detailed description of the invention

The invention can be used for instance for the purification of cells, viruses, subcellular organelles, proteins, and especially nucleic acid materials.

5 The magnetic particles are preferably paramagnetic. The size of the particles is usually less than 50 μm , preferably 0.1 - 10 μm , and most preferably 1 - 5 μm . The concentration of the particles may be eg. 0.01 - 5 mg/ml, preferably 0.05 - 3 mg/ml, and most preferably 0.2 - 2 mg/ml.

10 The particles have been coated or treated with a binding reagent, eg. silicon, lectins and/or other reactive functional groups such as oligonucleotides, antibodies, antigens, streptavidin, or biotin.

15 The particles are preferably transferred from a vessel to another by using a probe comprising a rod movable in a vertical bore and provided with a magnet at the lower end thereof. The probe is pushed into the mixture with the rod in the lower position, whereby the particles are collected on the probe. Then the probe is transferred to another vessel, and when the rod is pulled to its upper position the particles are released.

Different kind of surface tension releasing compounds, especially water soluble compounds, can be used in the method. Examples of such are:

20 A. Tensides, such as

- Soaps
- Detergents; including anionic, cationic, non-ionic and zwitterionic compounds

B. Alcohols, such as

- Polyethylene and polyvinyl alcohols and their protein etc. derivatives

C. Proteins

25 D. Salts and carbohydrates in high concentrations, such as

- NaCl
- Saccharose

Also mixtures of compounds can be used.

30 Especially tensides such as detergents are suitable. Preferable detergents are ethoxylated anhydrosorbitol esters. The esters may contain eg. about 4 - 20 ethylene oxide groups.

The concentration of a tenside may be eg. 0.001 - 0.5% (w/v), preferably 0.005 - 0.1% (w/v), and most preferably 0.01 - 0.05% (w/v). The concentration of a protein

may be eg. 0.1 - 10% (w/v), preferably 0.25 - 5% (w/v), and most preferably 0.5 - 2% (w/v). The concentration of a salt may be eg. 0.1 - 10 M, preferably 0.1 - 7 M.

For purification of DNA or mRNA from different sources (for instance, DNA from PCR amplification; DNA from blood, bone marrow or cultured cells; mRNA from eucaryotic total RNA or from crude extracts of animal tissues, cells and plants) the nucleic acids are immobilized by using magnetic particles. The binding can be mediated by the interaction of streptavidin and biotin, whereby particles coated with streptavidin and biotinylated DNA can be used. In addition, DNA can be adsorbed to the surface of the particles. The binding of mRNA can be mediated by Oligo (dT)₂₅ covalently coupled to the surface of the particles.

After the immobilization, the nucleic acids are washed several times to remove all the reaction components resulting from the amplification or other contaminants and, e.g., PCR inhibitors.

The washing can be performed by releasing and collecting complexes in a washing buffer and by transferring the complexes to another well containing fresh washing buffer.

For ssDNA purification the immobilized double-stranded DNA can be converted to a single-stranded by incubation with 0.1 M NaOH and using magnetic separation.

For the isolation of mRNA, it can be eluted from the particles by using a low salt buffer.

The purification process can be performed by a magnetic particle processor, in which all the mediums are ready in separate vessel. A surface tension releasing compound is preferably used in each medium. Suitable disposable plates, such as microtitration plates, comprising the necessary vessels can be used. In one plate, several parallel purifications can be accomplished.

Example of reagents used for a ssDNA purification

1. Particle suspension in eg. phosphate, Tris or Borate buffered saline, pH 7.4, containing 0.1% BSA, 15 mM NaN₃, and eg. 0.02% polyoxyethylene (20) sorbitan monolaurate (Tween 20 TM) as a surface tension releasing agent

2. Binding and Washing buffer (TEN): 10 mM Tris-HCl, 1 mM EDTA, 2 M NaCl, eg. 0.02% Tween 20 TM, 15 mM NaN₃, pH 7.5

3. TE buffer: 10 mM Tris-HCl, 1 mM EDTA, eg. 0.02% Tween 20TM, 15 mM NaN₃, pH 7.5

4. Melting solution: 0.1 M NaOH, eg. 0.02% Tween 20TM

5. eg. 0.02% Tween 20TM in distilled water, 15 mM NaN₃

5 Example of reagents used for a mRNA direct purification

1. Oligo (dT)₂₅ particle suspension in PBS, pH 7.4, containing eg. 0.02% Tween 20TM and 15 mM NaN₃

2. Lysis/binding buffer: 100 mM Tris-HCl, pH 8.0, 500 mM LiCl, 10 mM EDTA, 1% LiDS, 5 mM dithiothreitol (DTT), 15 mM NaN₃, (eg. 0.02% Tween 20TM)

10 3. Washing buffer with LiDS (SDS): 10 mM Tris-HCl, pH 8.0, 0.15 M LiCl, 1 mM EDTA, 0.1% LiDS, 15 mM NaN₃ (eg. 0.02% Tween 20TM)

4. Washing buffer: 10 mM Tris-HCl, pH 8.0, 0.15 M LiCl, 1 mM EDTA, eg. 0.02% Tween 20TM, 15 mM NaN₃

5. Elution solution: 2 mM EDTA, pH 8.0, 15 mM NaN₃, eg. 0.02% Tween 20TM

15 6. Reconditioning solution: 0.1 M NaOH, eg. 0.02% Tween 20TM

7. Storage buffer Oligo (dT)₂₅: 250 mM Tris-HCl, pH 8, 20 mM EDTA, 0.1% Tween-20, 15 mM NaN₃

Example of the reagents used for a mRNA purification

1. Binding buffer: 20 mM Tris-HCl, pH 7.5, 1.0 M LiCl, 2 mM EDTA, 15 mM NaN₃, eg. 0.02% Tween 20TM

2. Washing buffer: 10 mM Tris-HCl, pH 8.0, 0.15 mM LiCl, 1 mM EDTA, 15 mM NaN₃, eg. 0.02% Tween 20TM

5. Elution solution: 2 mM EDTA, pH 8.0, 15 mM NaN₃, eg. 0.02% Tween 20TM

Example of reagents used for RNA isolation

25 1. 4 M guanidium isothiocyanate, 25 mM sodium citrate pH 7.0, 0.5% N-lauryl sarcosine, 0.01 M β-mercaptoethanol

Example of reagents used for a DNA direct purification

1. Particle suspension in Lysis buffer (eg. 50 mM Tris-HCl, pH 7.2, 50 mM EDTA, 3% SDS, 1% 2-mercaptoethanol; 50 mM KCl, 10 - 20 mM Tris-HCl, 2.5 mM MgCl₂, pH 8.3, 0.5 Tween 20TM, 100 µg/ml Proteinase K; 100 mM Tris-HCl, pH 8.5, 5 mM EDTA, 1% SDS, 500 µg/ml Proteinase K) containing 15 mM NaN₃
2. Washing buffer containing 15 mM NaN₃ and eg. 0.02% Tween 20TM
3. Resuspension buffer containing 15 mM NaN₃ and eg. 0.02% Tween 20TM

Example of the purification process of PCR products by a magnetic particle processor at room temperature

- 10 The reagents are dispensed into a subsequent wells of a plate.

Example of a reagent configuration:

Well 1.	Sample (biotinylated DNA, PCR amplicons)
Well 2.	Streptavidin coated magnetic particles in washing buffer
Wells 3 - 5.	Washing buffer
15 Well 6.	NaOH
Well 7.	TE buffer
Well 8.	Distilled water

Example of processing steps:

Well 2. Mixing, washing and collecting of particles, moving of them into well 3

Well 3. Washing of particles, moving of them into well 4

Well 4. Washing of particles, moving of them into well 1

Well 1. Sample incubation 10', moving of particles into well 4

Well 4. Washing of particles, moving of them into well 5

Well 5. Washing of particles, moving of them into well 6

Well 6. Incubation 5' in melting solution, moving of particles into well 4

Well 4. Washing of particles, moving of them into well 5

Well 5. Washing of particles, moving of them into well 7

Well 7. Rinsing of particles, moving of them into well 8

Well 8. Releasing of particles

The effect of surface tension releasing agent (STRA) in collecting and releasing steps of magnetizable particles

Streptavidin coated magnetic particles (sizes: Scigen streptavidin 3 μm ; Scigen; SPHEROTM streptavidin 4 - 4.5 μm , Spherotech, Dynabeads M-280 streptavidin 2.8 μm , Dynal) were saturated with biotinylated alkaline phosphatase (Calbiochem, San Diego, CA) for 1 h at +37 °C. Saturated particles were first washed to remove the unbound alkaline phosphatase and were then used to examine the effect of STRA in collecting and releasing steps of a magnetic particle processor. The instrument settings of these examples were adjusted from 20 μl to 200 μl and the capacity range of the processor was 1 - 24 samples per run. The processor utilized a rod magnet (cylindrical NdFeB axially magnetized, length 2 mm, width 3 mm) in polypropene tube (outer width 4.5 mm).

Briefly, the particles were processed by releasing and collecting them from well to well so that the whole process comprised of 10 steps. The amount of particles, which remained into the wells after the collection, was estimated with alkaline phosphatase assay. Samples (10 μl) from each well were transferred to an empty microtitration plate (round-bottomed wells, width 6.5 mm).

In this assay alkaline phosphatase saturated particles (0.016 μg - 1 μg particles / 10 μl diluent) were used as standards. Into the wells containing 10 μl samples and standards were added 100 μl pNPP-substrate diluted in diethanolamine (DEA) buffer (Labsystems). The substrate was incubated for 15 minutes at +37 °C with continuous shaking (900 rpm) in Labsystems iEMS Incubator/Shaker. The reaction was stopped by adding 100 μl 1M NaOH into each well and the absorbances at 405 nm were measured by photometer (Labsystems Multiskan).

The amount of remaining particles was determined from a linear standard curve and finally results were expressed as percentage of initial amount of particles (0.2 mg/well).

In Fig 1. is shown the effect of detergent (Tween 20TM) in different concentrations. The degree of remaining particles (Scigen streptavidin) were over 3% / well, when surface tension releasing agent was not added into the collecting and releasing buffer. When the detergent concentration was $\geq 0.00125\%$, the particles were collected efficiently.

In Fig 2. is shown the effect of salt and saccharose in collecting and releasing buffer. By adding these components into the buffer, the collection of particles (Scigen streptavidin) was more efficient.

5 In Fig 3. is shown the effect of a protein (casein) which was improving the collecting steps of particles (SPHEROTM streptavidin) in some degree.

In Fig. 4 is shown the effect of detergent (Tween 20TM) when the magnetic particles of different suppliers were used.

Claims

1. A process for the purification of a substance, wherein

- material containing the substance, and magnetic particles coated or treated with a reagent which binds the particles to the substance are dispensed in a first medium,

5 - a binding reaction is let to take place, in which reaction the substance is bound to the particles, and

- a magnetic probe is pushed into the medium, whereby the particles adhere to the probe, and the probe together with the particles and the substance bound to them is transferred to a second medium, and if desired, separated from the second medium

10 and transferred to a third medium,

characterized in that

- a surface tension releasing agent is dispensed at least on of the mediums, preferably at least to the first medium, and most preferably to all mediums, before the probe and the particles are transferred from it.

15 2. A method according to claim 1, wherein the surface releasing compound is a tenside, alcohol, protein, or a salt or carbohydrate.

3. A method according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the surface tension releasing compound is a tenside, such as a detergent.

20 4. A method according to claim 3, wherein the concentration of the tenside is 0.001 - 0.5% (w/v), preferably 0.005 - 0.1% (w/v), and most preferably 0.01 - 0.05% (w/v).

5. A method according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the surface tension releasing compound is a protein.

25 6. A method according to claim 5, wherein the concentration of the protein is 0.1 - 10% (w/v), preferably 0.25 - 5% (w/v), and most preferably 0.5 - 2% (w/v).

7. A method according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the surface tension releasing compound is a salt.

8. A method according to claim 7, wherein the concentration of the salt is 0.1 - 10 M, preferably 0.1 - 7 M.

30 9. A method according to any of claims 1-8 for the purification of cells, viruses, subcellular organelles, proteins, or nucleic acid materials.

10. A method according to claim 9 for the purification of nucleic acid materials.

11. A method according to any of claims 1-10, wherein the size of the magnetic particles is less than 50 μm , preferably 0.1 - 10 μm , and most preferably 1 - 5 μm .

12. A method according to any of claims 1-11, wherein the concentration of the magnetic particles is 0.01 - 5 mg/ml, preferably 0.05 - 3 mg/ml, and most preferably 0.2 - 2 mg/ml.

13. A method for separating magnetic particles by means of a magnetic probe from a medium, characterized in that a surface tension releasing agent is dispensed into the medium before the particles are separated.

10 14. A method for improving the adherence of magnetic particles from a liquid medium to a magnetic probe to be pushed into the medium, characterized in that a surface tension releasing agent is dispensed into the medium before the particles are adhered to the probe.

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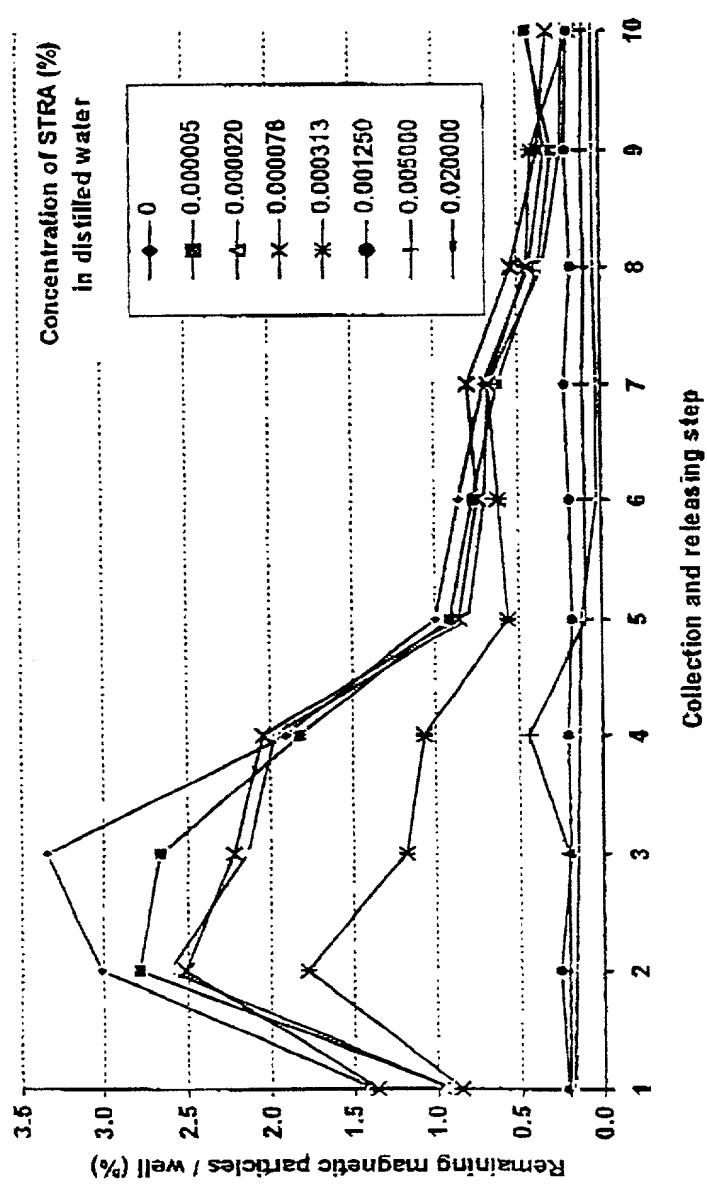


Fig. 1

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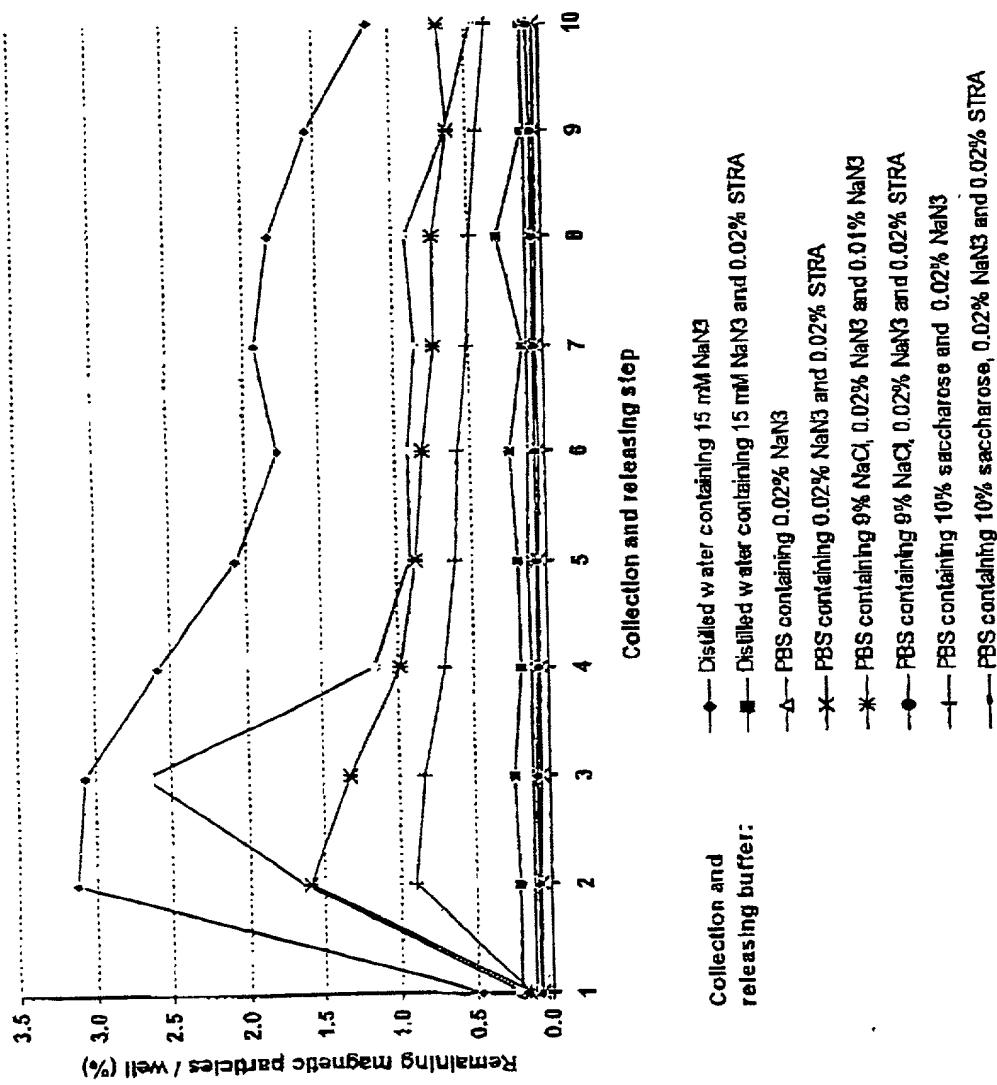


Fig. 2

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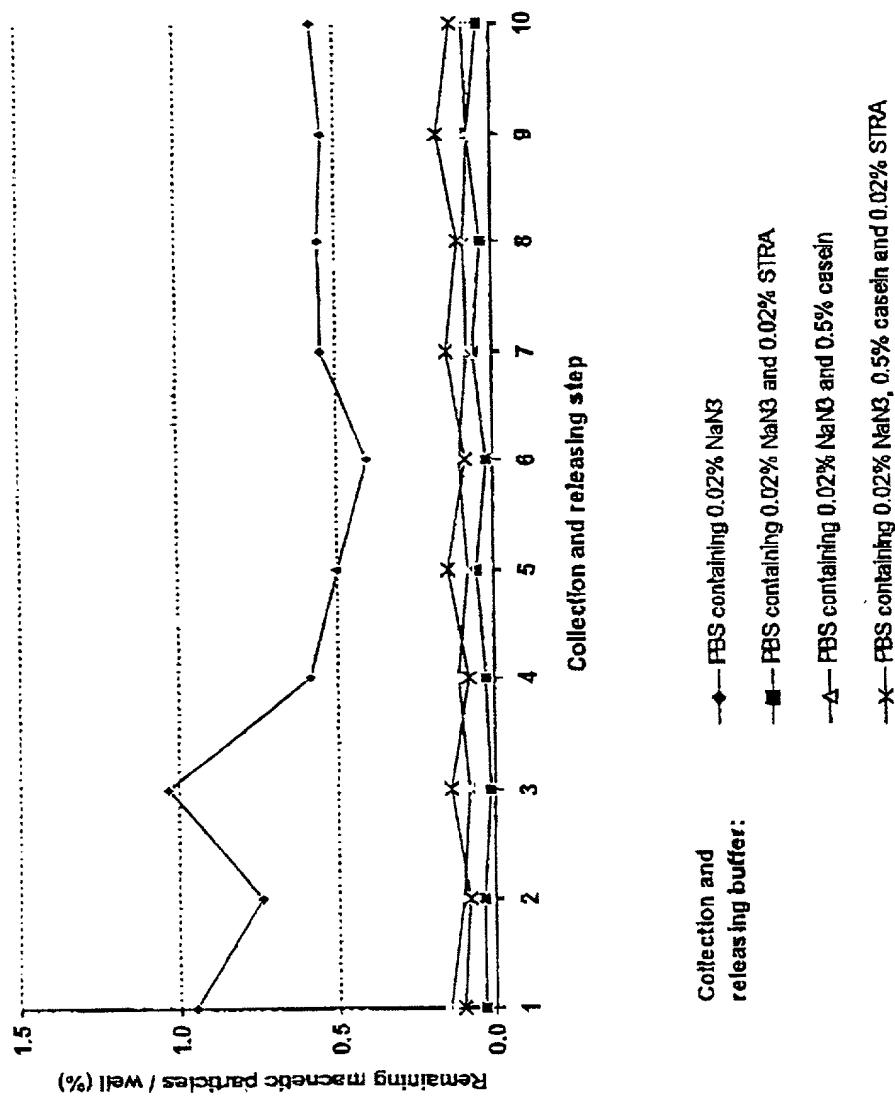


Fig. 3

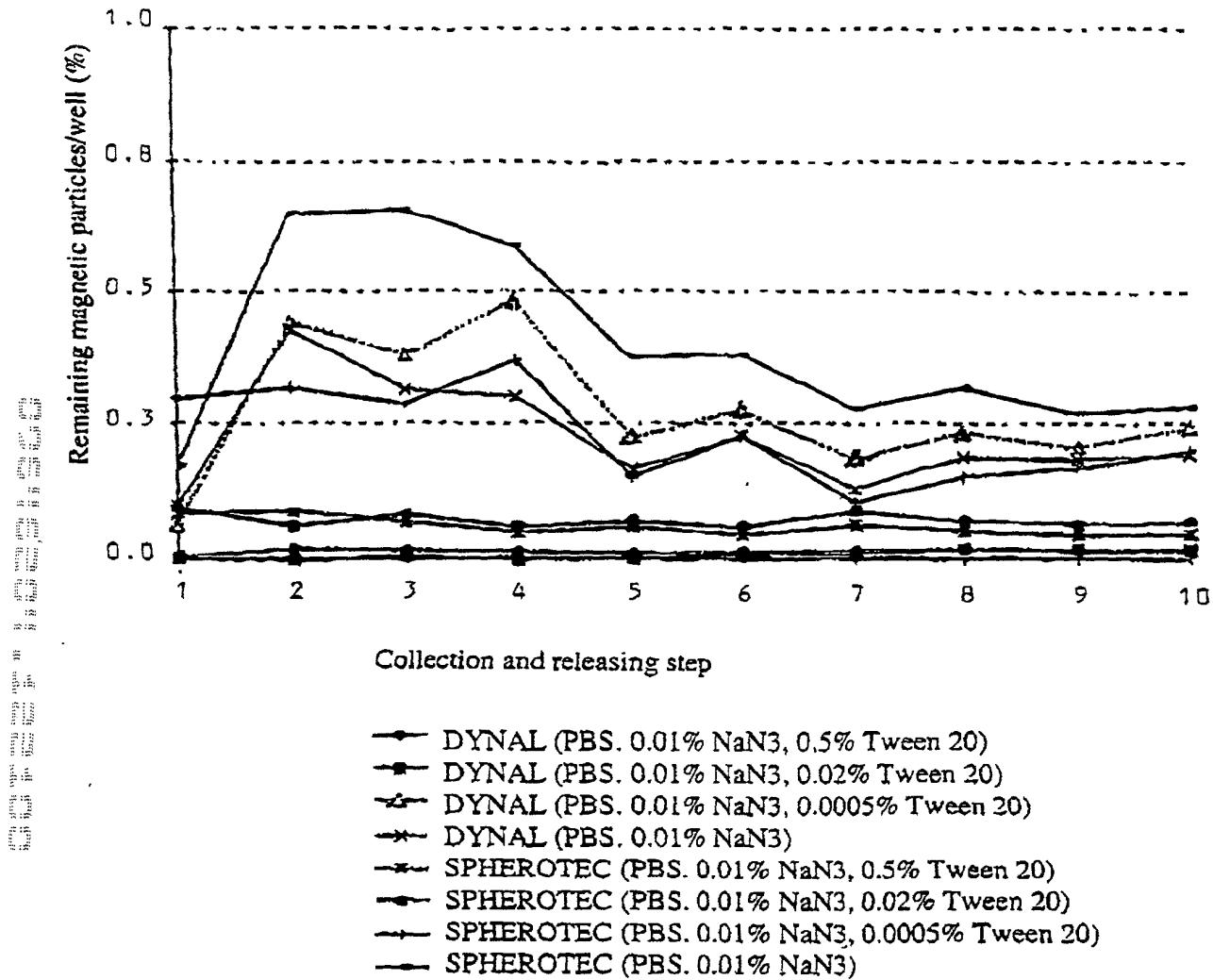


Fig. 4

Attorney's Docket No.: 09910-007001
Client's Ref. No.: BP100140/ÉH/TUK**COMBINED DECLARATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY**

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that:

My residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below next to my name,

I believe I am the original, first and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) or an original, first and joint inventor (if plural names are listed below) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled PURIFICATION PROCESS USING MAGNETIC PARTICLES, the specification of which:

is attached hereto.

was filed on _____ as Application Serial No. _____ and was amended on _____

was described and claimed in PCT International Application No. PCT/FI00/00031 filed on 18 January 2000 and as amended under PCT Article 19 on _____

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above-identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment referred to above.

I acknowledge the duty to disclose all information I know to be material to patentability in accordance with Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, §1.56.

I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code, §119(e)(1) of any United States provisional application(s) listed below:

<u>U.S. Serial No.</u>	<u>Filing Date</u>	<u>Status</u>
------------------------	--------------------	---------------

I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code, §120 of any United States application(s) listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the prior United States application in the manner provided by the first paragraph of Title 35, United States Code, §112, I acknowledge the duty to disclose all information I know to be material to patentability as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, §1.56(a) which became available between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT international filing date of this application:

<u>U.S. Serial No.</u>	<u>Filing Date</u>	<u>Status</u>
------------------------	--------------------	---------------

I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under Title 35, United States Code, §119 of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate or of any PCT international application(s) designating at least one country other than the United States of America listed below and have also identified below any foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate or any PCT international application(s) designating at least one country other than the United States of America filed by me on the same subject matter having a filing date before that of the application(s) of which priority is claimed:

<u>Country</u>	<u>Application No.</u>	<u>Filing Date</u>	<u>Priority Claimed</u>
Finland	990082	18 January 1999	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No

I hereby appoint the following attorneys and/or agents to prosecute this application and to transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith:

Timothy A. French, Reg. No. 30,175
William E. Booth, Reg. No. 28,933

John J. Gagel, Reg. No. 33,499
John F. Hayden, Reg. No. 37,640

Attorney's Docket No.: 09910-007001
Client's Ref. No.: BP100140/EH/TUK**Combined Declaration and Power of Attorney**
Page 2 of 2 Pages

Address all telephone calls to JOHN J. GAGEL at telephone number (617) 542-5070.

Address all correspondence to JOHN J. GAGEL at:FISH & RICHARDSON P.C.
225 Franklin Street
Boston, MA 02110-2804

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patents issued thereon.

Full Name of Inventor: HELENA SEPPANENInventor's Signature: Helena Date: 01 October 2000
Residence Address: SappiCitizenship: FINLAND
Post Office Address: Finland
Linnanherrantie 7 A 6
FIN-00950 Helsinki
FINLANDFull Name of Inventor: PEKKA PALOMAKIInventor's Signature: Pekka Date: 01 October 2000
Residence Address: PalCitizenship: FINLAND
Post Office Address: Finland
Alakartanontie 7 B 17
FIN-02360 Espoo
FINLAND

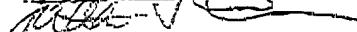
Combined Declaration and Power of Attorney

Page 3 of 3 Pages

Full Name of Inventor:

JUKKA TUUNANEN

Inventor's Signature:



Date: 01 October 2000

Residence Address:

Koivikkotie 20 C

FIN-00630 Helsinki

FINLAND 

Citizenship:

Finland

Post Office Address:

Koivikkotie 20 C

FIN-00630 Helsinki

FINLAND

Full Name of Inventor:

TIMO KARMENIEMI



Date: 01 October 2000

Inventor's Signature:

Punahilkantie 5 A 7

FIN-00820

Helsinki FINLAND 

Citizenship:

Finland

Post Office Address:

Lumikintie 3 D 142

FIN-00820

Helsinki FINLAND

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